

**Claims**

1. A data switching system for directing requests to initiate a new operation session of an executable application, comprising:

a switch processor for,

5            parsing received data representing a received URL to identify whether said received URL is associated with a request to initiate an operation session of an executable application, and if said received URL is associated with a request to initiate an operation session,

10          initiating a data access request at a second URL address hosted by a particular server; and

              in response to receiving a response indicating success of said data access request at said second URL address hosted by said particular server,

              directing said request to initiate said operation session of said executable application to said particular server.

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2. A system according to claim 1, wherein

              said received URL is at least one of, (a) the same as said second URL and (b) different to said second URL.

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3. A system according to claim 1, wherein

              in response to receiving a response indicating failure of said data access request at said second URL address hosted by said particular server,

              directing said request to initiate said operation session of said executable application to a server other than said particular server.

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4. A system according to claim 1, wherein

              said failure response results from a user changing a destination address stored in said particular server, said destination address corresponding to said second URL address, said failure indicating said particular server is not accepting requests to initiate an operation session of an executable application.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said switch processor,  
parses data representing a URL to identify whether a URL is associated with a  
data request of a first or different second type, and

5 processes said URL associated data request of a first type differently to a URL  
associated data request of a second type.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein  
said switch processor parses data representing a URL to identify whether a  
10 URL associated data request is of a first type by determining if a URL data field identifies a  
server.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein  
said switch processor parses data representing a URL to identify whether a  
15 URL associated data request is of a first type by determining if a URL data field contains an  
ASP extension.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said switch processor parses data representing a URL to identify whether a  
20 URL is stateless.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein  
said switch processor determines if a URL is stateless by determining if a URL  
data field contains at least one of, (a) a .gif extension, (b) a .js extension (c) a .jpeg extension  
25 and (d) a .html extension.

10. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said switch processor redirects a stateless data request directed to said  
particular server to a server different to said particular server in response to receiving a  
30 response indicating failure of said data access request at said second URL address hosted by  
said particular server.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
a URL associated data request of a first type is performable by a particular  
server and

5       a URL associated data request of a second type is performable by a plurality of  
different servers.

12. A system enabling a user to reduce workload of a server to support  
maintenance of said server, comprising:

10           an interface processor in a particular server for  
changing a destination address stored in said particular server from a  
first destination address to a second destination address, in response to user command, said  
change to said second destination address being used to identify said particular server is  
unavailable for initiation of new operation sessions of applications,

15           receiving a URL request to access data at said first destination address,  
determining said URL request to access data cannot be accomplished  
because of said changed destination address and

initiating communication of a message identifying failure of said data  
access request to a source of said received URL request.

20           13. A system according to claim 12, wherein  
said message identifying failure of said data access request indicates said  
particular server is unavailable for initiation of new operation sessions of applications.

25           14. A system according to claim 12, wherein  
said interface processor parses data representing a URL to identify whether a  
URL associated data request is associated with a previously initiated operation session of an  
application.

30           15. A system according to claim 12, wherein  
said interface processor terminates a previously initiated operation session of  
an application in response to a timeout command.

16. A system according to claim 12, including

a display generator for initiating generation of data representing at least one display image enabling user entry of a command changing a destination address stored in said particular server from a first destination address to a second destination address.

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17. A system according to claim 12, wherein

10 said interface processor in said particular server changes a destination address stored in said particular server from a second destination address to a first destination address, in response to user command, said change to said first destination address being used to identify said particular server is available for initiation of new operation sessions of applications.

18. A user interface system enabling a user to reduce workload of a server to support maintenance of said server, comprising:

15 a display generator for initiating generation of data representing at least one display image,

enabling user entry of a command changing a destination address stored in a particular server from a first destination address to a second destination address, said change to said second destination address being used to identify said particular server is 20 unavailable for initiation of new operation sessions of applications and

in response to failure of said command

indicating said failure by an indicator in said at least one display image.